

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (**currently amended**). A process for preparing a pressure-sensitive

polyacrylate adhesive, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a polyacrylate composition including the atomic sequence C – S – C is admixed with at least one metal compound of ~~type~~ formula (L)<sub>y</sub>M where

M = metal atom or metal ion

L = counterion or ligand

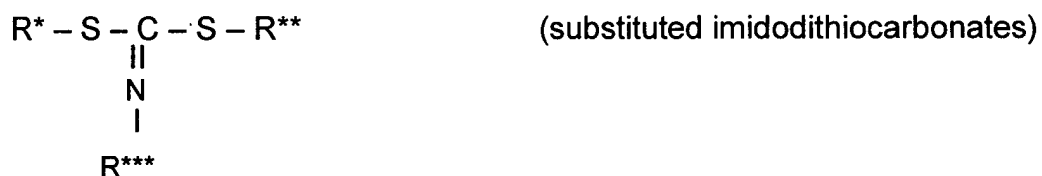
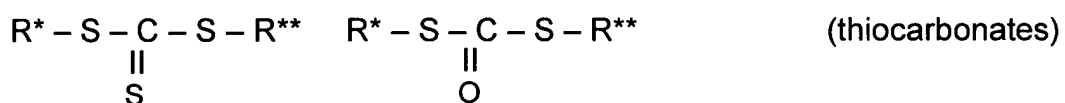
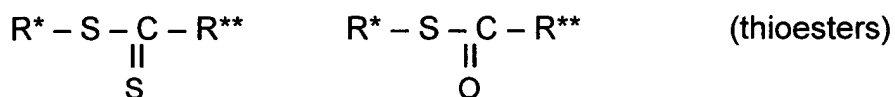
y = 0 to 6.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 1, comprising at least the following steps:

- polymerizing ~~the a~~ monomer mixture using at least one compound including the atomic sequence C – S – C as regulator, to form a polyacrylate composition which includes the atomic sequence C-S-C,
- additizing with metal compounds of ~~type~~ formula (L)<sub>y</sub>M,
- concentrating the resulting polymer polyacrylate composition to form a hotmelt composition,
- crosslinking the ~~polymer~~ hotmelt composition by means of actinic radiation.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the compound comprising the atomic sequence C – S – C ~~can be~~ is a compound represented by one of the following structures:



where R\*, R\*\* and R\*\*\* independently of one another are aromatic or aliphatic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radicals.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
**wherein**

the radicals R\*, R\*\* and/or R\*\*\* are present wholly or partly in oligomeric and/or polymeric form.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the metal compound (L)<sub>y</sub>M is a metal salt, a metal hydroxide or a metal complex compound.

Claim 6 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein

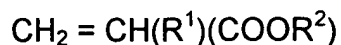
the ~~polymer~~ hotmelt composition is applied to a backing material prior to crosslinking.

Claim 7 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the polyacrylate composition is based at least 50% by weight on acrylic monomers.

Claim 8 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the polyacrylate composition is based at least partly on monomers of the ~~general~~  
formula



where

R<sup>1</sup> = H or CH<sub>3</sub>

$R^2 = H$  or a hydrocarbon radical containing 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the metal M is selected from the ~~following~~ group consisting of :

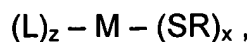
copper, nickel, iron, zinc, tin, cadmium, aluminum, cobalt, silver, and gold.

Claim 10 (**currently amended**). The process of ~~at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein

the counterions and/or ligands L are selected independently of one another from the ~~following group:~~ group consisting of

halides, alkoxides, borides, hydroxides, nitrates, phosphates, perchlorates, phthalocyanines, oxinates, acetates, acetylacetonates, carbonates, formates, cyanides, naphthalocyanines, rhodanides (thiocyanates), carboxylates, chelates, resinates, carbides, phosphines, alkyls, alkenyls, alkynyls, diones, aryls, substituted aryls, citrates, heterocycles, pentadienyl, amines, polyfunctional amines, ethers, and crown ethers.

Claim 11 (**currently amended**). A polyacrylate-based pressure-sensitive adhesive, ~~characterized by the presence of~~ comprising at least one metal-sulfur compound of the structure



where

M represents a metal selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ni, Fe, Zn, Cd, Al, Co, Ag and Au,

R independently at each occurrence denotes aliphatic, aromatic, saturated, unsaturated, oligomeric or polymeric radicals,

L independently at each occurrence represents ions or ligands selected from the group consisting of halides, alkoxides, borides, hydroxides, nitrates, phosphates, perchlorates, phthalocyanines, oxinates, acetates, acetylacetonates, carbonates, formates, cyanides, naphthalocyanines, thiocyanates, carboxylates, chelates, resins, carbides, phosphines, alkyls, alkenyls, alkynyls, diones, aryls, substituted aryls, citrates, heterocycles, pentadienyl, amines, polyfunctional amines, ethers, and crown ethers.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising

at least 25 ppm, based on the parent polymer, of metal-sulfur compounds of the formula  $(L)_z - M - (SR)_x$  ~~are present at least at 25 ppm, based on the parent~~ **polymer.**